DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 413 902 IR 056 732

AUTHOR Fortner, Sandra
TITLE Information Needs of Appalachian Scholars.
PUB DATE 1997-01-00
NOTE 37p.; Master's Research Paper, Kent State University.
PUB TYPE Dissertations/Theses (040) -- Reports - Research (143)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Citation Analysis; Citations (References); Higher Education; Journal Articles; Publications; *Reference Materials; *Researchers; Scholarly Journals; Sex Differences; Sociology; Tables (Data); *User Needs (Information)
IDENTIFIERS *Appalachia; United States

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to analyze the nature of materials used by scholars in the field of Appalachian studies. Citations were analyzed from four monographic works: "Appalachia and the Politics of Culture," "Appalachia in an International Context," "Appalachia: Social Context, Past and Present," and "Appalachia in the Making." Findings of the investigation revealed that: (1) men publish more articles than women relevant to Appalachia; (2) the articles were most frequently published in journals; (3) the subject most frequently written about was Sociology; (4) most articles were published in the United States; and (5) most of the articles had references that were more than 10 years old. (Contains 16 references and 12 charts and tables that show distributions). (Author/AEF)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

IR

ED 413 902

INFORMATION NEEDS OF APPALACHIAN SCHOLARS

A Master's Research Paper
submitted to
Kent State University
School of Library and Information Science
In partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree
Master of Library and Information Science

by
Sandra Fortner
January, 1997

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
R. Du Mont
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

IR056732

ABSTRACT

This review used citation analysis methodology. Citations were taken from Appalachia and the Politics of Culture, Appalachia in an International Context, Appalachia: social context, past and present, and Appalachia in the making. Findings of the investigation revealed that men publish more articles than women relevant to Appalachia, those articles are most frequently published in journals within the United States and the articles have references that date back more than ten (10) years in a majority of the citations.

Master's Research Paper by
Sandra Fortner
B.A., Baldwin Wallace College, 1993
M.L.I.S., Kent State University, 1997

Approved by
Adviser Lois Buttlar Date 2-4-97

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In remembrance of my beloved grandmother, Effie Elmore Fortner, a true daughter of Appalachia and its culture, I respectfully dedicate this paper.

Accolades to Dr. Lois Buttlar because she exemplifies what is best in the teaching profession. Dr. Buttlar aided me in the culmination of a dream through her encouragement, guidance and assistance of this project; my heartfelt thanks to her.

Acknowledgments to the people of Appalachia for the wisdom they imparted to me from the richness which is our common heritage. Finally, many thanks to my mother, my friend Luba, and my cousin "Ernie" for their help in the completion of this paper.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTERS

I. Introduction..... 1

Purpose of the Study..... 2

Definition of Terms..... 2

II. Literature Review..... 3

Background of the Study..... 3-5

Research Related to Information Needs..... 5-8

III. Methodology..... 9

Limitations of the Study..... 10

Coding Sheets..... 11-12

IV. Findings

Distribution by Gender..... 13

Distribution by Type of Publication..... 13

Distribution by Subject..... 14

Distribution by Country of Publication..... 14

Distribution by Currency of Publication..... 14

V. Summary and Conclusion..... 27-28

REFERENCES..... 29-30

LIST OF TABLES AND CHARTS

Table 1..... 15

Chart 1a..... 16

Chart 1b..... 17

Table 2..... 18

Chart 2..... 19

Table 3 20

Chart 3a..... 21

Chart 3b..... 22

Table 4..... 23

Chart 4..... 24

Table 5..... 25

Chart 5..... 26

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION

In recent decades various labels have been assigned to the people who inhabit Appalachia. For example they have been labeled "ethnic" by sociologists and other scholars. Other, even more derogatory labels include those of "hillbilly," "moonshiner," backwoodsman," "brier." It appears that for various reasons, including the economic conditions of the area, Appalachians have been singled out for attention and study by sociologists, economists, agronomists, and other scholars.

Appalachia is a region of the eastern United States including the Appalachian mountains. Geographically these mountains extend about 1600 miles, southwest from Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and southern Quebec, Canada to central Alabama. Various mountain ranges make up this large land mass - including Peters Mountain where I was raised and the Jefferson National Forest where my grandmother was born.

They (the Appalachians) are among the oldest mountains on earth, whose parent rocks were first thrust up more than 500 million years ago and not to be ignored are the mountain people themselves who have spent generations living there (Brooks 1987).

Appalachia is distinctive in part because of its isolation from the main stream of American life and neglect by both state and national governments. Studies have been done on the dissimilarity between the Appalachian (northerners persist in calling all white

southerners "hillbillies") (Tindall 1981, 24) people and their relationship to the rest of society.

How do librarians and information scientists select material for researchers and scholars in this relatively new field of study? What kinds of materials are used?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to analyze the nature of materials used by scholars in the field of Appalachian studies. Research behavior patterns may be discerned by scholars (Heinzkill 1980, 352). Additionally, the study will demonstrate how much information can be garnered using this methodology.

Research goals include: 1) determining the type of publications used; 2) the currency required of materials; 3) the gender of the authors; 4) the major subjects and issues of concern 5) the nationality of the scholars/researchers writing in this field.

Definition of Terms

Appalachians in the context of this paper are those people living in parts of Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, and all of West Virginia.

CHAPTER II.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Background of the Study

The etymology of the word ethnic (Soukhanov 1992, 630) comes from the Greek noun ethnos, meaning people from foreign nations. People including "Native Americans" came to the United States from other countries in the world; the so-called ethnics living in Appalachia have lived in this country for generations; many of them having ancestral lines pre-dating the American Revolution. Green says, "Appalachians do not constitute a religious, ethnic, racial, ... or gender-based enclave" (Green 1995, 11). Why then are they (Appalachians) ethnics (foreigners) in the United States? Is it because their speech pattern is different than other parts of this country or is there a bias because these people to not conform to the "norm."

The frontier settlement was a backwoods rebel community, and some of the early settlers were not only outspoken rebels who produced the Fincastle Resolutions, a statement with strong sentiments which predated the Declaration of Independence (Hinsdale, Lewis & Waller 1984). The speech of Appalachia bestirs the language of Chaucer and The Elizabethans, such as "hit" for it, or "fit" for fight. Still (1991, 24) says people here are more likely to express themselves in an original manner than in any other place one goes; he continues by saying he does not want Appalachian speech to be like any other. He tells of a

conversation he had with someone who did not know of his educational credentials at the time of their initial conversation. Subsequently the man told Still "You talk smart but you have hillbilly wrote all over you" (Still 1991, 26).

He says that people who come into the area "expect to meet up with barefoot men packing hog-rifles and wearing black hats plugged with bullet holes -- the hillbilly stereotype. Human nature operates here pretty much as elsewhere. To be unlettered is not necessarily to be unintelligent" (Still 1991, 25).

Family ties are a strong part of the Appalachian heritage and everyday life. Appalachians are leery of trusting outsiders. However, there may be times when a name of a "holler," a creek, a mountain cave, etc. may be enough to establish trust and understanding among these people (Barker 1995). Appalachians find it hard to trust outside help because they have been exploited of natural resources by absentee owners. In the so called "coal-fields" people have shoveled tons of coal to find that their meager wages are hardly sufficient to feed their families while most of the profits went elsewhere to create prosperity.

The people who are natives of Appalachia have lived their lives with the message, sometimes subtle but often bluntly painful, that to be Appalachian is to be less than equal. They have been told for two hundred years to discard their beliefs, their accents, and adjust to modern American life; they have been told to assimilate into the melting pot. Does that mean that they must

forget their history, their culture, their traditions, in order to speak like everyone else in the United States (Barker 1995)?

Stewart says that "Appalachia" is seen by other segments of the American populace as folksy, as a poverty region, as a backwater. She continues,

> Appalachia (West Virginia) "constitutes an Other America not because it is somehow outside or marginal to America's cultural landscape but because it has, through a long history of exploitation and occupation by an industry and an incessant narrativization of a cultural real, come to image its place within its spaces of desire" (Stewart 1996).

Research Related to Information Needs of Social Scientists.

The professional literature in the field of library and information science reveals that while other studies have examined the information needs of scholars in particular disciplines, none has been concerned with the information needs of researchers interested in the area of Appalachian studies.

Bibliometrics has Greek origins; biblio (Soukhanov 1992, 182) meaning book and metrics (Soukhanov 1992, 1137) meaning the application of statistics and mathematical analysis to a specified field of study. Another definition explained bibliometrics as research that deals with the relationships between cited and citing documents in whole or in part (Smith 1981, 83). Bibliometrics has been used for research in other disciplines as well as information science related projects, e.g., collection development, reference desk staffing, etc.

Buttlar and Wynar (1992) analyzed the authorship of articles

in five major ethnic journals to determine types of data required to conduct research in the field of ethnicity. They found that journal articles, monographs and newspapers were the most important tools for their overall research. They also noted that scholars use citations from ethnic publications because more than 50% can read information in another language. They were uncomfortable with information sources in the electronic format because of the technology and their lack of familiarity with its use.

Semra's (1988) investigation of the needs of geographers specializing in the Maghreb found that the information available to them (i.e., research reports, university papers, maps, and aerial photographs) was not sufficient to meet their needs. Further, they found that part of the problem in locating information is the polarization of geographers. This makes it difficult to ascertain who does what. Another factor suggests that certain information may be withheld if documents deal with maps, aerial photography, etc. She concluded that steps must be taken to rectify these shortcomings. For example, she suggested that specialists should train in geographical information, reciprocal information exchange, and that accessibility to recent and current information be made available.

Anthes (1985) probed the needs of behavioral scientists in high tech/high touch academic libraries. She found that behavioral scientists require more information than the average user. She suggests that libraries must provide bibliographic instruction at

the undergraduate level in order to provide scholars with the competence to know how to conduct research. She adds that rather than emphasizing individual titles, a better service to students would be to teach them how to utilize the library's resources to accumulate the most current and serviceable information to meet their needs. In order to ensure that this transition takes place she notes that personal interaction between users and librarians is crucial.

Case (1986) studied the information needs of historians and found that classification and indexing are not helpful to the historians as to other scholars. He suggests that terminology studies be done in order to simplify the terms of one specialist into the terms familiar to another specialist. He cites an anthropologist and a social historian as examples of this methodology. He suggests that it may be beneficial to have a new style of historical abstract which would describe not only elements of time, geographical/political units and topic, etc. but also individual's names and social groups, and the original sources used in the examination. Further, he says that new technology, such as electronic mail, could be used to encourage conveyance of information among historians, archivists, and librarians.

Hurych (1986) researched humanists in the context of online searching. The report indicated that very little has been written about the information style of humanists although without literature and libraries, analysis would be impossible. The study

indicates that most users are from the fields of languages, literature, and philosophy. Once they have used MLA and Philosopher's Index online they generally return for more searches. Furthermore, he noted that many of the searches were for retrospective material. These studies will aid database producers as well as librarians in the types of information required by these users - i.e., how much international coverage is needed, how much indexing is needed, etc. Since librarians will now have a better idea of user needs it will provide them with the opportunity of assisting humanists to develop better online searches and more personalized information.

Hartmann (1993) studied anthropologists. He found that their most significant source of information was from their field data. They tend to use journals and reference lists to obtain data. Also he found that, unlike other social scientists, anthropologists use online abstracts and indexes more frequently.

CHAPTER III.

METHODOLOGY

Citation analysis, as a special type of bibliometric research, is the methodology used in this research. The citations in four definitive monographic works were analyzed in order to answer the following questions:

1) What is the gender of the scholars doing research in this field?

2) What is the nature of materials used by researchers in this field? Do they prefer monographs, periodicals, government documents, reports, proceedings of conferences, theses and dissertations, etc.?

3) Do researchers have a preferred subject/topic relevant to Appalachia that they most frequently use?

4) Are most of the articles written about Appalachian studies done in the United States or in other countries?

5) What is the need for currency of materials? Do they tend to use current materials only?

Limitations of the Study

Citations analyzed in this study were limited to those found in four major monographic works. They are:

Appalachia and the Politics of Culture

Appalachia in an International Context

Appalachia: social context, past and present

Appalachia in the Making

The sources for citation analysis are relatively easy to obtain; unlike questionnaires, these sources are easily controlled. However, since only four monographic works were selected, the findings are not necessarily generalizable to all types of literature and they are not intended to be all-inclusive.

CODING SHEET

Citation No._____

A. Author/editor gender
Male (1) Female (2) Corporate (3)

B. Publication Year
2 years or less (1)
3 - 5 years (2)
6 - 10 years (3)
10 years or more (4)

C. Publication country

United States (1)	Canada (2)	England (3)
Wales (4)	Australia (5)	France (6)
Germany (7)	Scotland (8)	India (9)
Italy (10)	China (11)	Holland (12)
Ireland (13)	Switzerland (14)	Austria (15)
Peru (16)	Greece (17)	Sweden (18)
Spain (19)	Kenya (20)	Russia (21)

D. Type of Publication

Journal (1)	Book (2)	Dissertation (3)
Thesis (4)	Newspaper (5)	Gov. Document (6)
Proceedings (7)	Encyclopedia (8)	Recordings (9)
Report (10)	Interview (11)	Corresp. (12)
Paper (13)	Newsletter (14)	Radio (15)
Pamphlet (16)	Conference (17)	Symposium (18)
Annual (19)	Series (20)	Chp. in book (21)
Atlas (22)	Bibliography (23)	Speech (24)
Dictionary (25)	Directory (26)	Memo (27)
Catalog (28)	Commission (29)	Research (30)
Essays (31)	Consortium (32)	Letter (33)
Movie (34)	Video Tape (35)	Album (36)
Court Files (37)	Landdeed Bks (38)	Tax Books (39)
Will Books (40)	Company Records(41)	Law Review (42)
Quarterly (43)	Address (44)	Debate (45)
Minutes (46)	Treatise (47)	Abstracts (48)
Unpub. mss. (49)	Policy stat. (50)	Yearbook (51)
Bulletin (52)	Case Study (54)	Archives (55)

CODING SHEET (continued)

E. Subject

LSCI (1)	Anthropology (2)	Agriculture (3)
Art (4)	Business (5)	Biology (6)
Communication (7)	Economics (8)	Chemistry (9)
Education (10)	Geography (11)	Law (12)
Philosophy (13)	Geology (14)	Health (15)
Literature (16)	History (17)	Language (18)
Linguistics (19)	Math (20)	Medicine (21)
Ecology (22)	Politics (23)	Statistics (24)
Music (25)	Sociology (26)	Science (27)
Psychology (28)	Publ. admin. (29)	Dance (30)
Accounting (31)		

CHAPTER IV.

FINDINGS

Citations (1335) from Appalachia and the Politics of Culture, Appalachia in an International Context, Appalachia: social context, past and present, Appalachia in the Making were reviewed. An in-depth analysis indicated that articles written about Appalachia are varied. Citations appeared in approximately fifty (50) separate types of publications and in thirty-one (31) subjects were represented in the survey. However, many of the topics were minuscule in the overall total number of the citations. Also, because of the similarity of some topics they were grouped accordingly and will be reported in categories which comprised the largest segment of the articles.

Distribution by Gender

Men wrote more articles (about 68%) about Appalachia than did women (approximately 25%) as shown in Table 1. Corporate authors comprised the rest of the population.

Distribution by Type of Publication

Articles were most frequently published in journals (45%) with books and chapters in books (34%) representing a strong second place. Yearbooks and bulletins constituted only 0.7% of the articles. The distribution is shown in Table 2.

Distribution by Subject

The subject most frequently written about was Sociology (in a broad sense). Refer to Table 3 for a definition of the Sociology category as used in this paper. This topic represented 46.3% of the total population. The second topic most frequently cited was Business/Economics which comprised 13.9% of the citations. Art, music and dance constituted 2.4% (the smallest grouping) of the citations.

Distribution by Country of Publication

Most articles relevant to Appalachia were published in the United States. Great Britian (refer to Table 4 for a explanation) was second with 7.6% of the total citations. The rest of the world, including Canada, represented approximately 6% of the articles.

Distribution by Currency of Publication

Seventy percent of the articles written about Appalachia had references that were more than ten years old as indicated in Table 5. Only 2% represented references from current works (from 2 to 5 years).

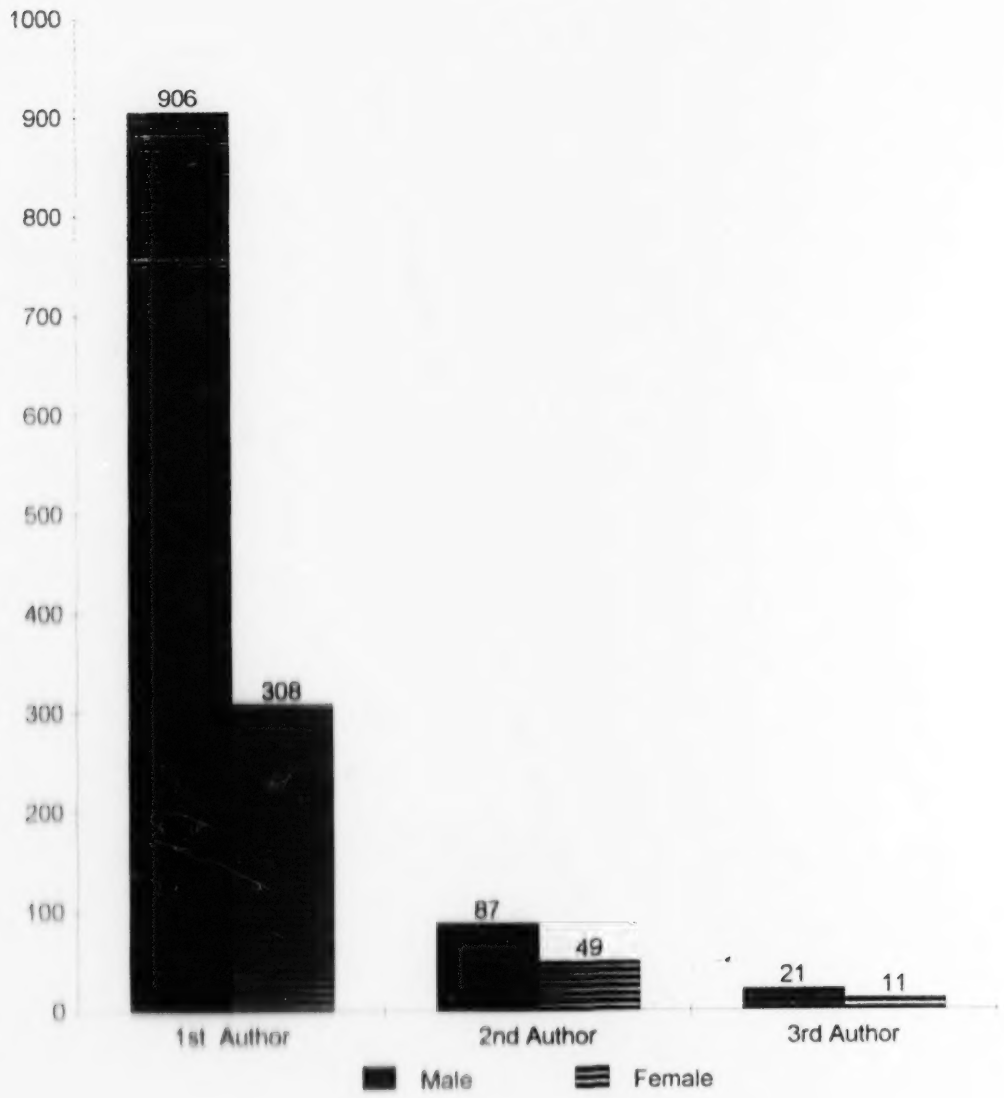
Table 1.

Distribution of Authors by Gender

Gender	f	%
First authors	906	60.76
Second authors	87	5.84
Third authors	21	1.41
Total males	1014	68.01
Female		
First authors	308	20.66
Second authors	49	3.29
Third authors	11	.73
Total Females	368	24.68
Corporate Authors*	109	7.31
Total	1491	100.0

* Indicates works done by committees and other corporate bodies.

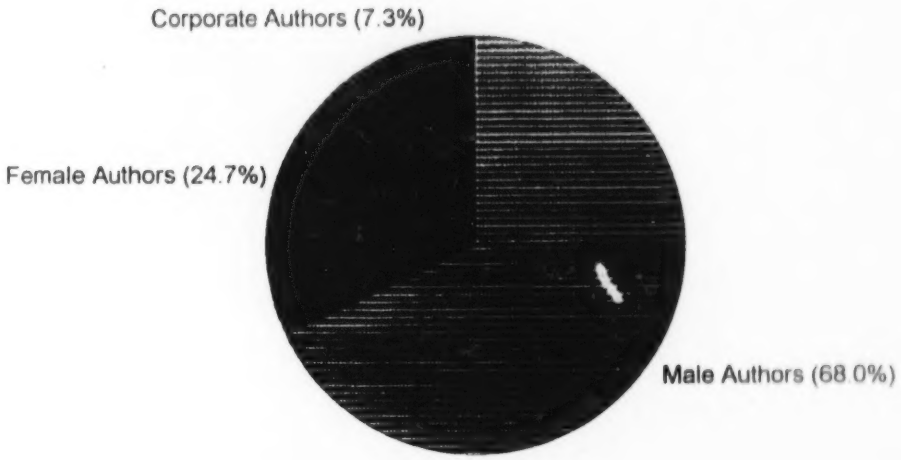
Distribution of Authors by Gender



16

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Distribution of Authors



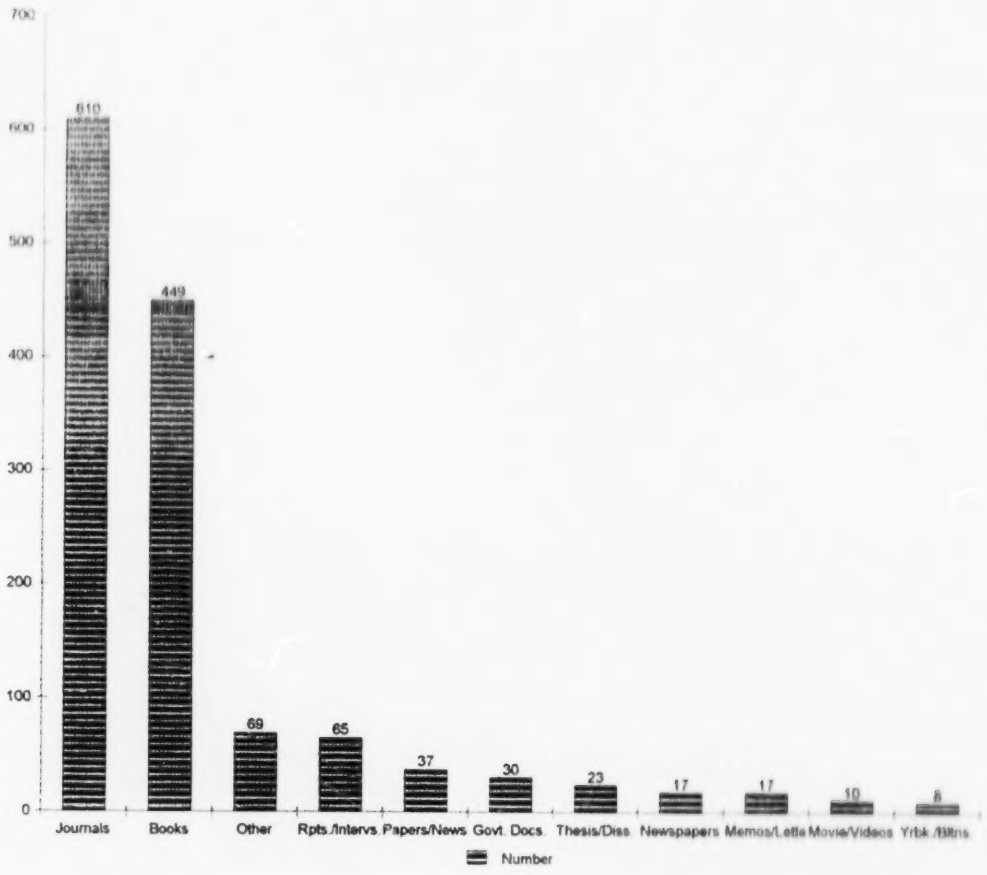
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 2.

Distribution of Citations by Type of Publication

Publication Type	f	%
Journals	610	45.6
Books & Chpts. from Books	449	33.6
Thesis/Dissertations	23	1.7
Government Documents	30	2.2
Newspapers/Proceedings	17	1.2
Reports & Interviews	65	4.8
Papers/Newsletters	37	2.7
Memos/Letters	17	1.2
Movie/Video Tapes	10	0.7
Yearbook/Bulletins	8	0.5
Other	69	5.7
Total	1335	100%

Distribution of Citations by Type of Publication



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 3.

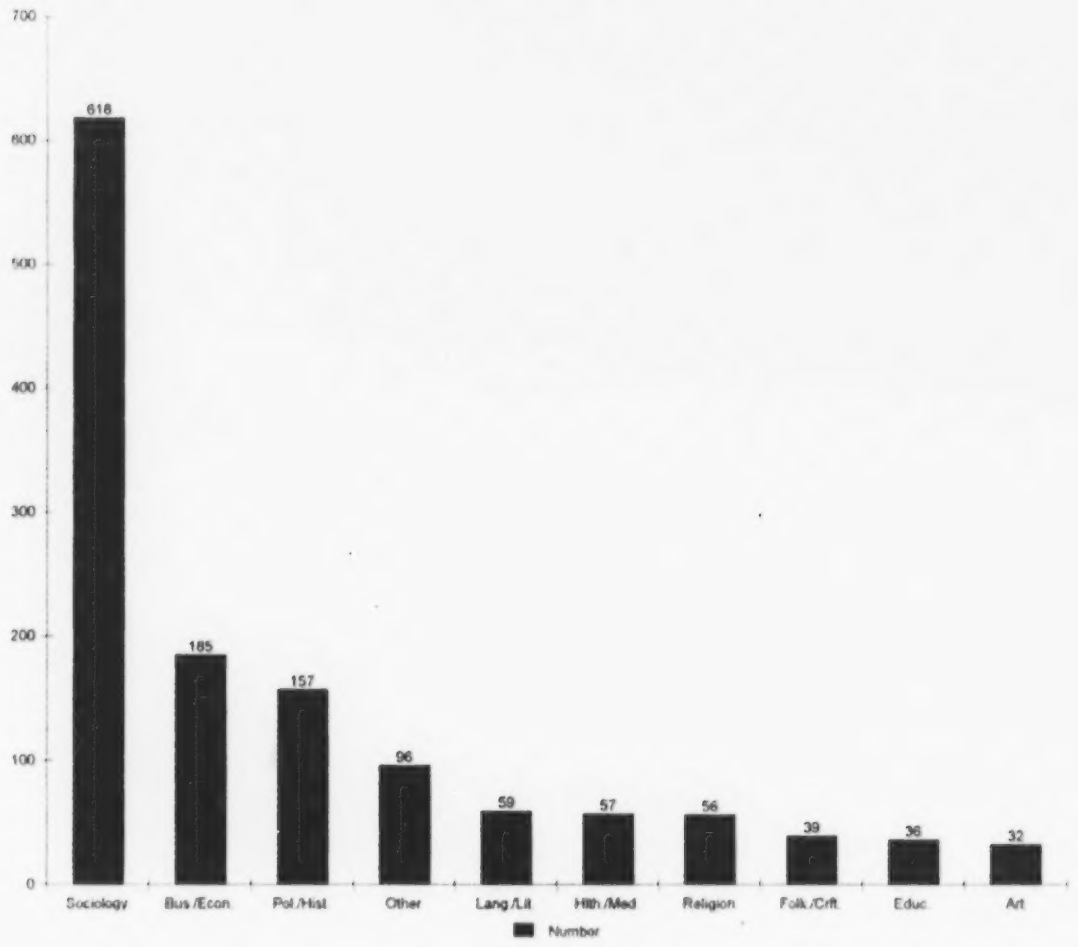
Distribution of Citations by Subject

	Subject	f	%
*	Sociology	618	46.3
	Business/Economics	185	13.9
	Politics & History	157	11.8
	Religion	56	4.2
	Health/Medicine	57	4.2
	Education	36	2.7
	Folklore/Crafts	39	2.9
	Art, Music & Dance	32	2.4
	Language, Literature & Linguistics	59	4.4
	Other	96	7.2
	TOTAL	1335	100%

* Comprised of Sociology, Anthropology, Ethnology and Cultures categorizations.

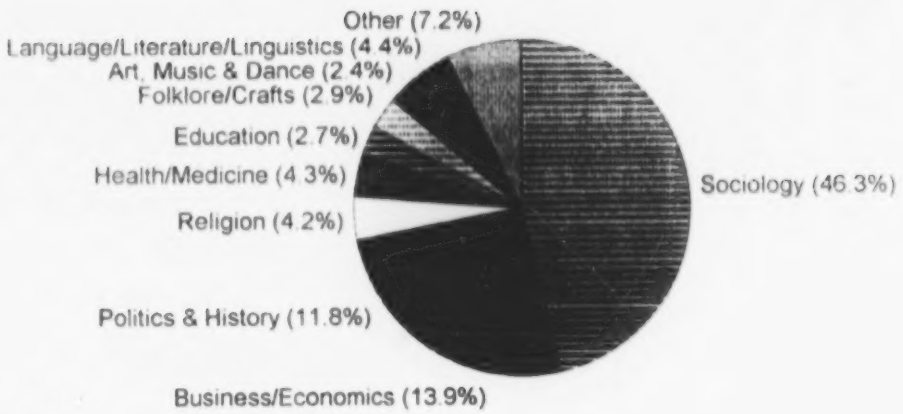
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Distribution of Citations by Subject



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Distribution of Citations by Subject



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

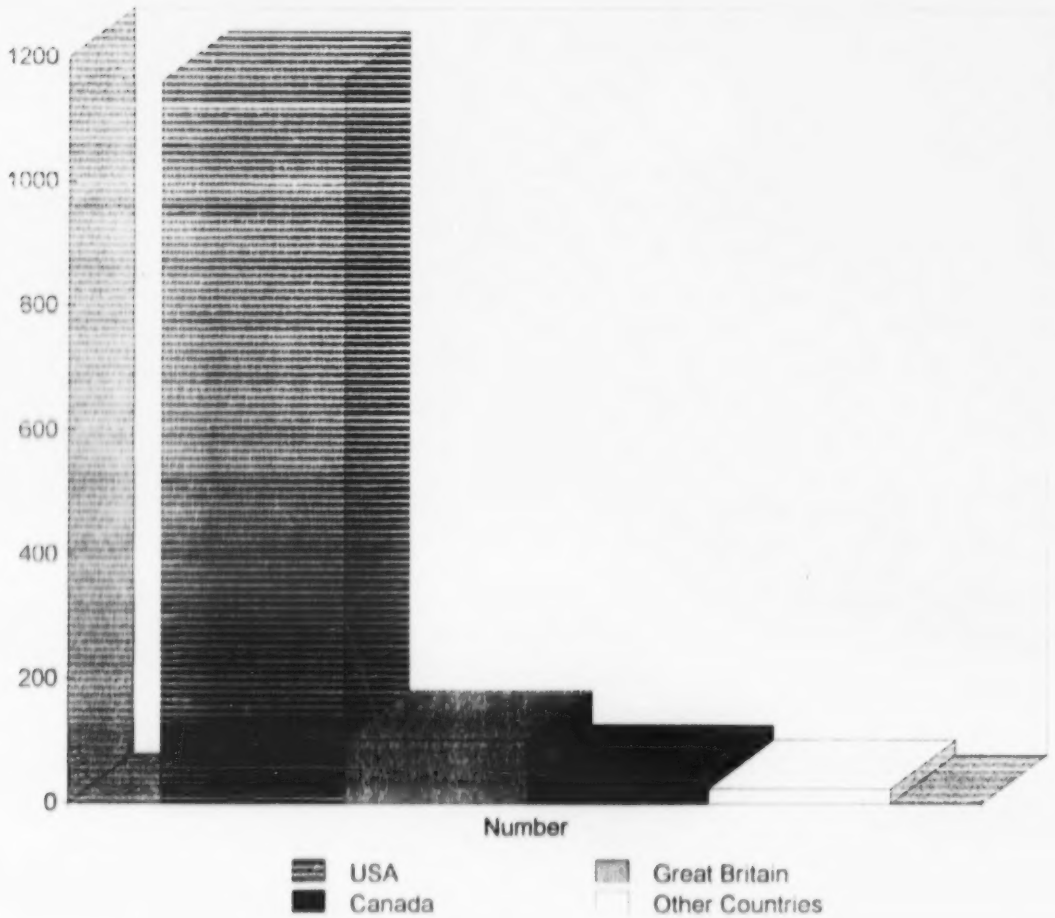
Table 4.

Distribution of Citations by Place of Publication

		f	%
	USA	1162	87.0
*	Great Britain	102	7.6
	Canada	47	3.5
	Other Countries	24	1.9
	Total	1335	100%

* Includes England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland

Distribution of Citations by Place of Publication



24

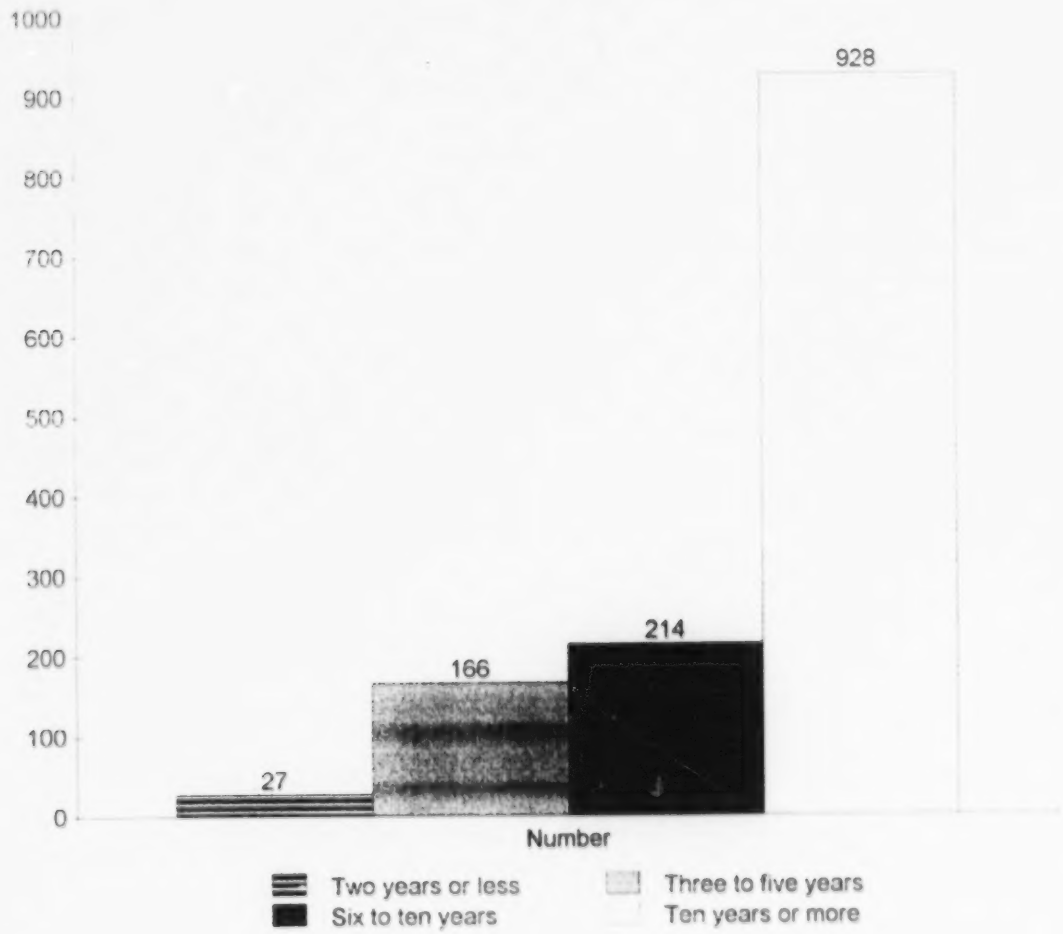
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Table 5.

Distribution of Citations by Currency of Publication.

Years	f	%
Two years or less	27	2.0
Three to five years	166	12.0
Six to ten years	214	16.0
Ten years or more	928	70.0
TOTAL	1335	100%

Distribution of Citations by Currency of Publication



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CHAPTER V.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Anthropology (scientific study of the origin, the behavior, and the physical social and cultural development of human beings), culture (the totality of socially transmitted behavior patterns, acts, beliefs, institutions and other products of human work and thought), ethnology (the science that analyzes and compares human cultures, as in social structures, language, religion and technology), and sociology (the study of human social behavior, especially the study of the origins, organizations, institutions and development of human beings)[1] were combined and reported in one group because of the similarity of their meanings. It appears from the work performed in this study that scholars are indeed interested in the mystique that is Appalachia.

The purpose of the study was to determine the materials used by scholars in the field of Appalachian studies. A total of 1335 citations were analyzed - the characteristics include currency, subject, gender, place of publication, and the subjects which are of interest to these scholars. The results of the investigation are described below.

Books, journals, dissertations/thesis, and government

---

[1] Soukhanov, Anne H., (78, 454, 630, & 1711, respectively)

document, etc. were types of sources used by scholars which were included in the study. The analysis indicated that journals and books were the primary sources used by authors writing about Appalachia.

Although the study was done using materials published in 1995 and 1996, references cited by the scholars were often dated from ten years or older material.

The subjects written about included were varied. A number of themes appeared evident in these writings - they included dependence, underdevelopment, social neglect, power and powerlessness. However, some positive attributes, such as rebirth, revitalization, community pride, were also found in the study. The remaining subjects dealt with politics, religion, the economy. Place of publication studies indicated that the United States was the country whose authors most often wrote about Appalachia. Surprisingly, England not Canada was second, with articles written about this topic.

It is difficult to draw a clear picture of Appalachia based upon these citations, mainly because so many were outdated. Perhaps in the future, scholars will attempt to locate more current materials upon which to make their assessment. Research should reflect what is happening in Appalachia at the present time, not ten years ago.

REFERENCE LIST

Anthes, Susan H. 1985. High tech/high touch: Academic libraries respond to changes in the behavioral sciences. Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian 5, no.1 (Fall): 53-65.

Barker, Garry. 1995. Notes from a native son: Essays on the Appalachian experience. Knoxville, Tennessee: The University of Tennessee Press.

Brooks, Maurice. 1987. The Appalachians. Cambridge: Houghton Mifflin.

Buttlar, Lois and Lubomyr R. Wynar. 1992. Cultural pluralism and ethnic diversity: Authors as information users in the field of ethnic studies. Collection Management 16, no. 3: 13-33.

Case, Donald Owen. 1986. The collection and use of information by some American historians: a study of motives and methods. Library Quarterly 61, no.1 (January): 61-82.

Green, Archie. 1995. Appalachia: The view from San Francisco. Journal of the Appalachian studies association.

Hartmann, Jonathan. 1993. Information needs of anthropologists. Master's research paper, School of Library and Information science, Kent State University.

Heinzkill, Richard. 1980. Characteristics of reference in selected scholarly English literary journals. Library Quarterly 50, no. 3 (July): 352-365.

Hinsdale, Mary Ann, Helen M. Lewis, and S. Maxine Waller. 1984. It comes from the people: Community development and local theology. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Hurych, Jitka. 1986. After Bath: Scientists, social scientists and humanists in context of online searching. The Journal of Academic Librarianship 12 (July): 158-65.

Semra, Halima. Documenting practices and needs of geographers specializing in the Maghreb. Inspel 20 (3): 168-73.

Smith, Linda C. 1981. Citation analysis. Library Trends 30 (Summer): 83-106.

Stewart, Kathleen. 1996. A space on the side of the road: Cultural politics in an "other" America. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Still, James. 1991. The Wolfpen notebooks: A record of Appalachian life. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky.

Soukhanov, Anne H , ed. 1992. The American heritage dictionary of the English language. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Tindall, George Brown. 1995. Natives & newcomers: Ethnic southerns and southern ethnics. Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press.